

Black Bear

Name _____

Number of correct answers _____

Circle one: Pre Assessment Post Assessment

Write the letter of the correct answer in the blank.

1. Black bears are _____.
 - a. carnivores
 - b. herbivores
 - c. insectivores
 - d. omnivores

2. An area that provides an animal with the basic requirements it needs to survive is called a(n) _____.
 - a. ecosystem
 - b. habitat
 - c. life zone
 - d. niche

3. The life span of a black bear is _____.
 - a. 10 to 15 years
 - b. 20 to 25 years
 - c. 25 to 30 years
 - d. 30 to 35 years

4. To protect yourself from a bear while camping and hiking, you should _____.
 - a. wash your dishes properly
 - b. pick up and properly store all trash and food scraps
 - c. hang your food out of reach
 - d. travel in groups
 - e. all of the above

5. Scientists can study bears without actually seeing them by examining _____.
 - a. scat
 - b. tree scrapings
 - c. tracks
 - d. all of the above

Circle the correct true or false answer.

6. Bear cubs are usually born in June. T F

7. Black bear females can have between one and four cubs. T F

8. Bears have a remarkable sense of smell. T F

9. Bears use the flat back teeth, called molars, to chew and grind plant material. T F

10. Black bear tracks show five toes and may not show the claws. T F

Assessment _____

Fill in the blank.

11. A baby black bear is called a _____.
12. An adult female black bear is called a _____.
13. An adult male black bear is called a _____.
14. Examples of limiting factors are food, water, shelter, and _____.
15. Two examples of foods eaten by black bears are _____ and _____.

Short answer: write answers in the space or on the back of the page.

16. What happens if the number of bears in an area is greater than the “carrying capacity” of the area?
17. Explain the term “limiting factor” and how it influences the bear population.
18. Name two ways to bear-proof your home.
19. As the number of people living and visiting the Tahoe area increases, what happens to bears in the area?
20. Why do you think it is illegal in California and strongly discouraged in Nevada to feed bears?

Answer Key

1. d
2. b
3. b
4. e
5. d
6. F (January/February)
7. T
8. T
9. T
10. T
11. cub
12. sow
13. boar
14. space
15. plants, berries, nuts, insects, meat
16. When the number of animals is greater than the carrying capacity, there are not enough resources available for all the individuals to survive. As a result, individuals either must leave the area or die.
17. Limiting factors are resources like food, water, shelter and space that determine the maximum number of animals that can survive in a habitat.
18. Put out trash only on collection day, keep garbage cans clean and deodorized, harvest fruit, clean barbecue grills, feed pets inside, block hibernation sites, keep doors and windows closed and locked, use bird feeders only November through March, do not leave scented products outside, do not leave trash, groceries, or animal feed in your car.
19. As human population increases the amount of habitat available for bears decreases; as a result there are more bear/ human encounters.
20. Once bears associate humans with a source for food, the bears will seek human foods and create human-bear conflicts. A bear's behavior will not stop voluntarily and it may be killed because of these conflicts (i.e., property damage or collisions with vehicles).